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[REDACTED] NID 81 [REDACTED]

January 06, 1981

POLAND

The Catholic Church, Solidarity, and leading dissidents are trying to patch up differences that developed last month. [REDACTED]

According to press reports, a delegation of the Warsaw chapter of Solidarity, accompanied by leading dissident Adam Michnik, met yesterday with Cardinal Wyszynski. The Cardinal reportedly assured them that the Church did not oppose the activities of Polish dissidents. [REDACTED]

A rift became evident in mid-December when an Episcopate press spokesman told Western reporters that the Church opposed dissident activities which "create nervousness and irritation in East and West," and singled out dissident leader Jacek Kuron for criticism. The atmosphere remained clouded despite a meeting on 24 December between the press spokesman and the Warsaw chapter of Solidarity. [REDACTED]

Solidarity leader Walesa has publicly called dissidents his friends, partly because of the help they provided in establishing the fledgling unions. Solidarity probably would react strongly if the regime stepped up its harassment or arrested the dissidents. [REDACTED]

Cardinal Wyszynski sympathizes with many of the humanitarian goals of the dissidents and has maintained personal contacts with them. He is concerned, however, that they are pressing Solidarity into actions that might prompt a Soviet military intervention. [REDACTED]

Wyszynski, nevertheless, does not want to be in the position of appearing to condone the repression of dissidents. He may have considered it opportune to mend fences now that the prospect of Soviet intervention appears to have at least temporarily receded. He also may have been reacting to reported criticism from within the Church of the Episcopate press spokesman's statement. [REDACTED]

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Walesa-Jagielski Meeting

Walesa and Deputy Prime Minister Jagielski met on Monday for more than five hours to discuss the five-day workweek, collective bargaining procedures, and the general situation in Poland. The regime probably wanted to make its stand clear on these and other issues, including censorship, before the meeting tomorrow of Solidarity's National Coordinating Commission. Walesa evidently respects Jagielski, with whom he negotiated the Gdansk agreements in August.

Economic Developments

Poland has reported that coal production in 1980 totaled 193 million tons, 14 million tons below the target and 8 million tons less than output in 1979. Exports in 1980, according to a December estimate, were expected to be only 31 million tons in 1980. Poland exported 41 million tons of coal in 1979. These figures imply that coal for domestic use rose slightly in 1980 and underscored the priority Warsaw now accords to the domestic economy at the expense of balance-of-payments improvements. Coal exports are Poland's major earner of hard currency.

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